

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 218 without my signature.

While I am a firm believer in providing openness and transparency when it involves public entities and public funding, this bill inappropriately defines private auxiliary organizations as a state or local public agency for purposes of the California Public Records Act (CPRA). Subjecting the altruistic activities of private donors and volunteers to the CPRA will have a chilling effect on their support and service, if they believe their personal privacy could be compromised. Hindering private giving of time and resources becomes a detriment to our higher education institutions.

Enacting this bill would result in a loss of private donations and volunteer activities supporting California public institutions of higher education, at a time when the University of California, California State University, and Community College campuses are facing significant reductions in state funding during this difficult fiscal situation.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger